



In Transit

July/August 2008

A Newsletter for King County Metro Transit Employees



*From the desk
of the General
Manager*

Honoring excellence, facing tough times

I always enjoy preparing my message for the July/August issue of *In Transit*, because this is when we recognize many employees for helping to make Metro the pride of our community and the envy of our peers. This year my congratulations come as we face difficult challenges, but this does not diminish your accomplishments. In fact, it makes them even more noteworthy.

In these pages we acknowledge teams and individuals who, having made substantial contributions to our success, now join Metro's Wall of Fame (see page 4). A select few of these nominees will be further recognized on the Washington State Department of Transportation's Wall of Fame in Olympia. And two worthy individuals have been selected as the 2007 Metro Operator(s) of the Year (see this page). Together they represent nearly 60 years of dedicated service to customers and co-workers. As front-line employees, they truly deliver on Metro's promise to the public, "We'll get you there."

We also recognize the skills displayed by the winners of the 32nd annual Metroadeo, where drivers and would-be drivers demonstrated their mastery of

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Boehmer and Chappelle named 2007 Operator(s) of the Year

Each year, drivers who have been chosen as Operators of the Month during that year select one of their own to be honored as Operator of the Year. This title recognizes the recipient for safe driving skills, exceptional customer service, and an outstanding overall work record. Two individuals have been selected as Metro's 2007 Operator of the Year: Richard Boehmer and Nate Chappelle. *In Transit* congratulates both outstanding drivers on achieving this honor.



Richard L. Boehmer, left, and Nate Chappelle learn that they are both 2007 "Operator of the Year" at a surprise ceremony in August.

Richard L. Boehmer

Boehmer has been with Metro since 1979, and has amassed numerous commendations for his outstanding customer service skills. He has 26 years of safe driving; received the George Turner Award in the second quarter of 2007 for his positive attitude and keen awareness of customers who are elderly and disabled; and was named Operator of the Month in May 2000 at East Base, and in December 2007 at Bellevue Base.

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General Manager

the fine art of bus operation (see page 10).

Praise is in order for these and other achievements noted in this issue, and I congratulate all of these honored employees on their excellence.

Unfortunately, these recognitions come as we face an urgent problem: a substantial shortfall in our 2008-2009 biennial budget.

At first the culprit was the skyrocketing price of fuel, which has affected transit agencies across the nation. The American Public Transportation Association reported in May that the average price paid by its member agencies for diesel fuel had nearly tripled since 2004. To address this, 48 percent of the transit agencies surveyed are considering increasing fares. Other actions they are considering include increasing local or state contributions (43 percent); delaying or cancelling operating improvements (42 percent), capital improvements (42 percent), or planned service increases (38 percent); transferring funds from capital use to operations (38 percent); cutting service (19 percent); or borrowing funds for operations (14 percent).*

In early July, King County Executive Ron Sims proposed a 25-cent fare increase, which would take effect Oct. 1, to partly address this issue. But in late July we learned of another problem that is taking an even greater toll on Metro's finances.

According to Executive Sims, "the uncertain economy and high fuel and food costs have caused people to spend less money on items that are subject to the sales tax, which is the primary source of funding for Metro.

"Combined with the high fuel costs that everyone is paying, this drop in revenue creates a huge hole in Metro's budget."

In fact, that hole amounts to a predicted average annual budget shortfall of more than \$70 million — far more than we can fill with the fare increase proposed in July. Meanwhile, now more than ever,

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Richard L. Boehmer's wife Katie (with back to camera) said he started driving for Metro in 1979, "just to have some money while looking for a 'real job.'"

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Operator(s) of the Year

"Always provide the best service possible," Boehmer said of his philosophy at work. "Be helpful and courteous to all of your customers, and be a role model." Long an active participant in base activities and Metro projects, Boehmer has served on the Safety Awareness Team, Base Activities Committee, and Bus Procurement Team.

Boehmer was born in Kalispell, Mont., grew up on Mercer Island, and served in the United States Marine Corps. His hobbies include gardening, spending time with family and friends, and making trips to Montana.

Nate Chappelle

Chappelle started working for Metro as a temporary employee in 1978. Thirty years later, he chairs the Security Committee at Atlantic Base and has served as Chief Shop Steward there for 10 years. He helped establish the Night Focus Group, which assists



Nate Chappelle has spent most of his career at Atlantic Base, Metro's trolley base that serves customers in Ballard, University District, Queen Anne, Rainier Valley, Capital Hill and downtown Seattle.

new operators working at night in urban areas, and serves on his base's accident review board. He was named Atlantic Base Operator of the Month in November 2007.

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Automated announcements coming soon to a bus near you

In late 2009, Metro Transit will begin using a new on-board communications system that features automated visual and audible customer information. The new system will display next-stop information on an LED sign inside the coach; automatically announce major stops and landmarks; and, when the doors open, announce the bus's route and destination on an outside speaker. These new capabilities are only a small part of the larger communications system project, but they will be very helpful to Metro's operators and passengers.

The "enunciator" systems are primarily designed to assist passengers who have visual, auditory, cognitive, and other challenges, but they will benefit all passengers. Gary Shumway and John Balmer of Transit Operations are coordinating data development for the new systems, overseeing field research with experts in these areas, and working with teachers of English as a second language. "Our initial expectations for system data were drastically revised," Shumway said. "Everyone preferred less to more: simpler announcements and displays rather than lengthier and more exact information. They didn't need it all spelled out; just enough information at the right place to identify their stop."



The new on-board communications system will display next-stop information on an LED sign inside the coach.

For several years, Metro operators have been responsible for announcing major stops and landmarks in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Operators are able to do this most of the time, but the new enunciator system will ensure full compliance and provide a broader spectrum of information to passengers, provided the coach is logged on to the system and is on route. Equally important is the fact that the Enunciator System will allow operators to pay closer attention to road conditions and provide better customer service.

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General Manager

people in King County want and need more transit service, not less.

How we will address this shortfall is not yet clear. We are evaluating every available tool that could help us keep buses rolling, including cutting costs, postponing investments, increasing service efficiency, and raising fares. We have some of our best people working on the problem, and I will be telling you

more as solutions become clear.

In the meantime, please keep up your outstanding work. In the face of tough times, your continued excellence makes me very proud to be a part of Metro.

— Kevin Desmond, General Manager

*Source: Impact of Rising Fuel Cost on Transit Services – Survey Results, May 2008, American Public Transportation Association.

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Operator(s) of the Year

Chappelle is known for his calm demeanor and outstanding leadership skills. He was commended in June 2006 by King County Executive Ron Sims, Department of Transportation Director Harold Taniguchi, Metro General Manager Kevin Desmond, and Manager of Transit Operations Jim O'Rourke for his quick thinking when he took action to stop a man from jumping off a downtown Seattle bridge railing over the I-5 freeway.

Born in Barbados, Chappelle moved to the U.S. with his family when he was three years old. He served six years of active duty in the U.S. Army, including two years in Vietnam, and attended San Francisco State College, where he met his wife, Elizabeth.

In Transit



We'll Get You There

If you have any questions, comments or story ideas, send them to **In Transit**, MS KSC-TR-0824, or contact **Anna Clemenger**: 206-263-6482 or anna.clemenger@kingcounty.gov.

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In Transit online

Current and past issues of *In Transit* are available on the King County Web site at www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/aboutus/intransit.

Transit's 2008 Wall of Fame—winners all!

Fourteen individuals and nine teams have been added to the Metro Transit Wall of Fame, which recognizes Metro employees who do exemplary work on behalf of internal and/or external customers. *In Transit* congratulates each of these honorees, listed on page 5, on joining this prestigious family. All employees are invited to stop by the Wall of Fame exhibit on the fourth floor of King Street Center.

From this deserving group of nominees, Metro management had the difficult task of choosing only two individuals and one team to be further honored with induction into the Washington State Department of Transportation's Wall of Fame. Those chosen for the state Wall of Fame were vehicle maintenance supervisor Michael Voris, safety officer Sue Stewart, and Power and Facilities' Graffiti and Vandalism Response team. These honorees will be feted on Sept. 9 at a special Recognition and Awards Banquet during the 2008 WSDOT Public Transportation Conference in Kennewick. Their photos and descriptions of their achievements will be prominently displayed throughout the conference.

Michael Voris



For the past 30 years, Michael Voris has been a key player in Metro's bus procurement. He has helped define and write ever-changing specifications, meeting internal customer requirements, paying attention to the details required to build a reliable bus, and keeping Metro's fleet in compliance with federal regulations.

Over his 30-year career, he has supervised the purchase of 2,754 buses, of which more than 1,400 are still on King County roads. Voris is also a key resource on trolley buses and is nationally known for his knowledge of bus history. His unique knowledge and superior abilities have helped put Metro at the forefront of the public transit industry.

Sue Stewart



Sue Stewart has been a Transit safety officer since 1981, working hard to ensure a safe and efficient ride for all of our customers. She excels in accommodating passengers with disabilities, in facility design review, and in using ergonomic principles to help reduce on-the-job injuries.

Early in her career, she became Transit Safety's representative to the Elderly and Handicapped Transit Advisory Committee. This was the beginning of a long and productive involvement with disability issues, and she has been directly responsible for the development of policies and procedures for securing all types of mobility devices.

Stewart also partnered with Metro's Design and Construction staff to create a new process in which all new facilities are simulated before they are built in order to validate engineering assumptions.

Her dedication to the health and safety of transit operators and office personnel, and the help she has given them in the effective use of ergonomic tools and proper posture, have created a healthier and more productive workplace for all.

Graffiti and Vandalism Response Team

Wes McDaniel, Diane Rolfe, Dan Little, Larry Drummer, Lisa Carter, Bill Wilton, Lee Kelley, and Sue Mulvihill (L-R)



This Power and Facilities team is aggressive and consistent about removing graffiti, replacing glass, and otherwise repairing vandalized shelters and facilities, with the goal of keeping Metro's passenger amenities as pleasant, safe, and secure as possible. They continually find more efficient ways to organize and complete tasks in order to keep up with the ever-growing problem of vandalism throughout Metro's 28,000-square-mile service area. Passenger shelters, park-and-rides, transit centers, and substations all have frequent need of the team's attention. Because these are highly visible facilities, the team's work has a huge impact on the public's perception of Metro as an agency.

Metro Transit 2008 Wall of Fame Nominees

Individual honors

Don Brewer, Power and Facilities (Custodial Maintenance)
Duane Tenma, Power and Facilities
Patricia "Pat" Fullmer, Research and Management Information
Barbara "Barb" Hudson, Paratransit/Rideshare Operations
Irin Limargo, Service Development
Jean McAlpine, Sales and Customer Services
Ron Moattar, Design and Construction
Tom Moran, Sales and Customer Services
Donna Moss, Paratransit/Rideshare Operations
Keith Sherry, Light Rail
Malva Slachowitz, Service Development
Lois Sohn, Information Technology
Sue Stewart, Transit Safety
Michael Voris, Vehicle Maintenance

Team honors

- **Access Procurement Team:** Spencer Cotton, Harold Davis, Janey Elliott, Tomi Geivett, Michael Glauner, Michael Miller, Donna Moss, Al Pelton, John Rochford, Paul Russell, Bob Sahm, Inda Taylor
- **Graffiti and Vandalism Response Team:** Lisa Carter, Larry Drummer, Lee Kelly, Dan Little, Wes McDaniel, Sue Mulvihill, Diane Rolfe, Bill Wilton
- **HASTUS Team (status implementation):**
 - Information Technology** — Ray Burgess, Mary Delahanty, Tefera Gulelat, Ben Lesh, Tedi Reynolds, Dale Schneider, Ursula White
 - Operations** — Laurie Carter, Levi Christopher, Jean Kattar, John Lewis, Tom Nims, John Reardon, Lynn Riley, Linda Rostad (now retired), Cathy Vujovich, Jeff Wamsley
 - Service Development** — Monique Allen, Anita Barreca (now retired), Steve Masumoto
- **Link Control Center Staff:** Marwan Al-Mukhtar, Terry Bigley (no longer at Metro), Karambir Cheema, Tom Jones, Jerry Laborde, Bruno LaRitz, Keith Sherry, Chris Skaar
- **On-Board System Control/Communications Center System Team:**
 - Core Team** — Holly Hidenrick, Reta Smith, Diane Sutherland, Martha Woodworth

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SHORT SHOTS IN TRANSIT

News briefs in and around the Transit Division

■ Reaching out to ferry

commuters — Staff members from Metro, Kitsap Transit, ZipCar, and Washington State Ferries recently teamed up to provide ferry commuters with information that could reduce their out-of-pocket expenses and speed up their commutes. The employees walked the Fauntleroy waiting line, set up an information table in the Colman ferry terminal, and boarded ferries to let passengers know about the benefits of sharing a ride on the ferry. Benefits for registered vanpools and three-person carpools include preferential loading on the sailing of choice and no vehicle fare for vanpools. More information on ridesharing is available at www.rideshareonline.com.



Vanpool Services Rep Julie Paone tells a ferry passenger in the Colman ferry terminal about the benefits of joining a vanpool.

■ Transit ridership up nationally

and at Metro — The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) announced in June that Americans took 2.6 billion trips on



A light rail car gets an assist from the “Brandt,” a tow truck that can run on rails as well as the street.

public transportation during the first three months of 2008 — that’s almost 85 million more than during the same period last year. Metro was at the top of the pack for large bus agencies, with a 6.2-percent increase in bus ridership for the first quarter and an additional 3.8 percent increase on electric trolley buses (APTA counts these separately). Like the price of gas, ridership continued to increase during the month of April at Metro, where we averaged 395,000 daily boardings on weekdays — an increase of about 22,000, or 5.9 percent, over the same month in 2007. Park-and-ride lots are also seeing more use. In the first three months of 2008, the 129 lots served by Metro accommodated almost 2,000 more vehicles a day, a 13-percent increase over the first quarter of 2007. Nationally, in the first quarter of 2008, public transportation use rose by 3.3 percent over 2007 levels. In contrast, the Federal Highway Administration reported that the vehicle miles traveled on U.S. roads declined by 2.3 percent in the first quarter.

■ Light rail car

on the move — A test run to check clearance on June 14 involved towing the first light rail car through the new Beacon Hill tunnel and along Martin Luther King, Jr. Way S to the Tukwila Station, with four people — two on each end of the car — walking the entire 12-mile

distance. They found no problem areas. Metro then parked the test car near the Tukwila Station, where drivers on I-5 could see it and be reminded that light rail will soon be here. Since then, the car has been moved back and forth to allow construction vehicles to pass. It can’t move under its own power yet, so the “Brandt” — a large tow truck that can run on rails as well as the street, and takes about \$500 in diesel fuel to fill its tank — does the heavy pulling.

■ Getting to know light rail

— On Aug. 13, full-time bus operators thinking about careers in light rail had an opportunity to visit the Light Rail Operations and Maintenance Facility. They toured a light rail vehicle, sat in the operator’s seat, and learned how to manually throw switches, raise and lower the pantograph — which carries current to the train from an overhead wire — and prepare the coupler that connects vehicles to each other. They also had a chance to ask questions about working in Metro’s light rail section. Similar sessions may be scheduled in the future if needed.



Training instructor John Reardon, left, teaches two operators how to drive through the newly renovated Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel last summer.

■ **Metro's training staff highlighted** — One of Metro's busiest groups behind the scenes in transit operations is the training unit, which oversees all aspects of bus driver training, ranging from classroom instruction for newly hired drivers to training veteran operators on new bus routes and equipment. "Our instructors have to be up to date on every aspect of operating a bus and customer service," said training supervisor **Doug Johnson**. "They are committed to making sure all transit operators have the best tools and knowledge to perform their jobs well." The training group was recently highlighted in *Transportation Today*, the Department of Transportation's online newsletter. The full article is available at www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transtoday/2008news/jun/tt061608_metrotraining.htm.

■ **Special cars shine** — In conjunction with the 32nd annual Metroadeo on June 21, the Metro Employees Historic Vehicle Association (MEHVA) sponsored its

20th annual King County Employees Car Show with 34 unique vehicles on display. The show's top winners were **Will Hoffard's** 1957 Nash Metropolitan (First Place, Participants' Choice) and **James Taeschner's** 1963 VW Beetle (First Place, People's Choice). Component Supply Center and Facilities Maintenance employees helped design and fabricate the car-show trophies, and MEHVA volunteers



James Taeschner's 1963 VW Beetle was the people's choice at the 20th annual King County Employees Car Show.

George Shields, Betsy Barnum, Josh Shields, Leo Koszewski, Harold Lemmon, Warren Yee, and John Watt helped organize, prepare, and host the event. MEHVA is a volunteer group of present and retired Metro employees — and others — dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and operation of historic transit vehicles that have operated in the Seattle/King County area. For more information, call the MEHVA Hotline (206-684-1816) or visit www.mehva.org.

■ **Transit Now service partnerships to roll out in September** — Among other Transit Now initiatives, the September service change package includes four service partnerships, the first of 12 approved by the King County Council in April 2008 to be implemented over the next three years. The 2008 financial partnerships will:

- Improve frequency on nine routes serving Seattle's Urban Village Transit Network through an agreement with the City of Seattle
- Add peak frequency on Route 269 through an agreement with the cities of Issaquah, Sammamish, Redmond, and the Microsoft Corporation
- Continue Route 644 — which was funded by the state to mitigate the affects of construction on Interstate 405 in north Kirkland — as Route 244, with modified routing
- Add thirty-minute, mid-day service on the Route 153 through a partnership with the cities of Kent and Renton.

■ **Deejay drives Metro bus** — Marty Riemer, morning disc jockey on Seattle's FM KMTT (103.7 The Mountain), fulfilled a lifetime dream of driving a Metro bus on June 25. Riemer said on air that he thought driving a 40-foot, 30,000-pound vehicle would be easy because of modern technology. But after taking

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Short shots in Transit



Training instructor Brian Mauer, left, shows radio deejay Marty Riemer the finer points of bus operation.

out a traffic cone on his first right turn, he discovered how much skill it takes to be a transit operator. He also couldn't believe just how big an "artic" is when you're in the driver's seat. As he checked his mirrors on the 60-foot coach, he repeatedly said, "Boy, that's a lot of bus back there." Safety Supervisor **Mike Lemeshko**, Training Supervisor **Doug Johnson**, Training Chief **Dan Porter**, Training Instructor **Brian Mauer**, Metro spokesperson **Linda Thielke**, and Reamer's producer, Jodi Brothers, helped orchestrate the event. To listen to an audio clip of Riemer talking about his experience, visit www.metrokc.gov/kc_dot/transtoday/2008news/jun/tt063008_compilation.htm#feature13



Performance corner

Overloads increase, Metro fights back

Ridership is at a record level, due in large part to high gas prices. As reported in the May/June 2008 issue of *In Transit*, this unprecedented growth in ridership contributes to an increase in late trips. Late trips can lead to bus overloads, which we are seeing now.

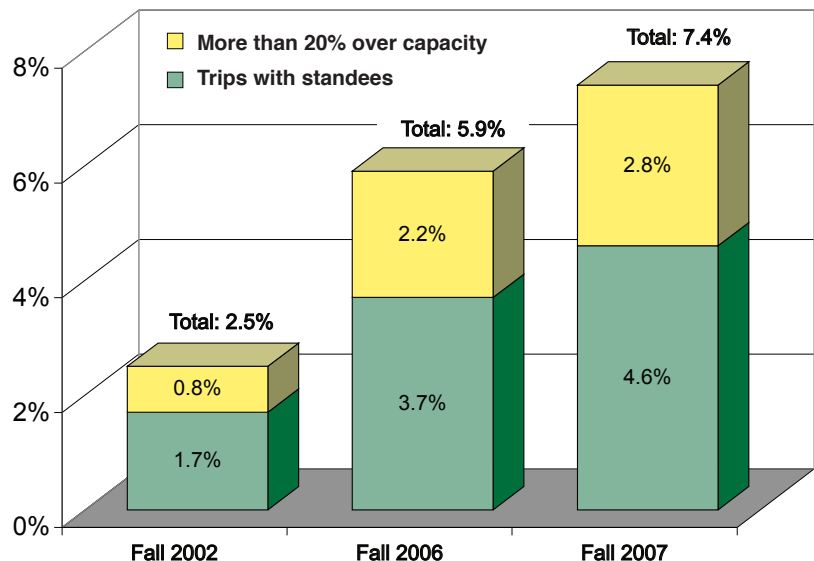
The jump in ridership has contributed to a three-fold increase in the number of overloaded trips. In fall 2007, 7.4 percent of Metro bus trips were overloaded, with passengers exceeding seat capacity by more than 20 percent on 2.8 percent of all trips. By comparison, in fall 2002 just 2.5 percent of all bus trips were overloaded, and only 0.8 percent were more than 20 percent over capacity (see chart).

Metro is aggressively attacking our overload problems. Service schedulers are dipping deep into budgeted schedule maintenance hours to help improve service reliability, and taking other steps to address on-time performance problems on routes where trips often run late.

Metro has also increased passenger-carrying capacity. In June, we took delivery of 22 new hybrid articulated coaches, which replaced lower capacity 40-foot coaches. The new "artics" are now operating on 90 trips in the system, many of which were among the most crowded.

In September, Transit Now partnerships will provide further service and capacity improvements on 10 routes in Seattle and will also fund more service on routes in Kent, Kenmore, and Bellevue's Overlake area, plus an Eastside DART (Dial-A-Ride Transit) route. Also in September, the Developing Areas component of Transit Now will bring new service online with the creation of two new routes — one between North Bend and Seattle, and another between Kent and Seattle — and the addition of more service to four existing routes.

Overloaded trips



We'll Get You There

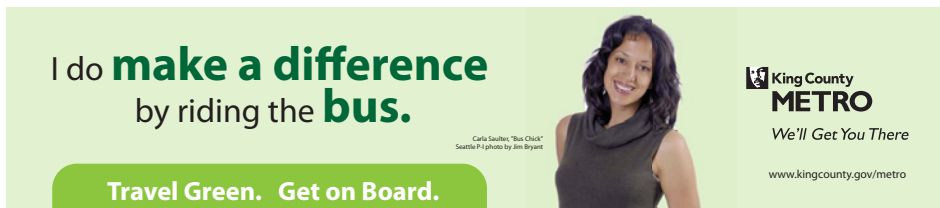
Shifting the Spotlight

Metro riders, employees make a difference

There are new faces on Metro buses — on the outside, that is. Metro's promotion, "I do make a difference by riding the bus," kicked off in July with signs on bus exteriors. Designed to remind our current riders and potential customers that choosing the bus helps the environment, the signs also speak to the difference that Metro employees make in their day-to-day efforts to keep our buses moving and to keep people choosing Metro for their transportation. Metro employees add strong value to the message. For example, our drivers offer courteous, timely, and reliable service; vehicle maintenance staff members keep the buses safe and reliable; and customer service staff members provide an invaluable service by handling customer inquiries, complaints, and problems with promptness and courtesy.

Metro is one of the greenest transportation systems in the nation, and provided a record 110.3 million bus rides in 2007. Each ride contributes to a reduction of harmful greenhouse gases and reduces the area's carbon footprint. So we all benefit from cleaner air and healthier living conditions when people choose to use Metro services.

When you see the new promotion, think about ways in which you, too, make a difference by helping people choose Metro.



Two of the banners now appearing on Metro buses to encourage ridership as a way to help the environment.

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Wall of Fame Nominees

Project Leads – John Balmer, David Baker, Randy Boshart, Julie Conquest, Bruce Dahl, Tom Friedman, Scott Larson, David Magidman, Robert Malcolm, Rob McClary, Dan Overgaard, Gary Shumway, John Toone, Sheryl Wampler

■ **Redmond Transit Center Team:** Linda Anderson, David Bailey, Cynthia Berne, Jim Carlson, John Davis, Paul Eng, Barbara Fariss-Bateman, Nancy Gordon, LG Hahn, Barry Hamblin, Gary Kriedt, Paul Leland, Alex Marin, Amir Moazzami, Josh Pellman, Helmuth Schmitt, Jack Schultz, Sue Stewart, Jeff Turner, Sally Turner, Jack Whisner

■ **Revenue Processing Team:** Alfred Calivo, Adele Dow, Talonya Green, Mark Haley, Terrie Kennedy, Marlen Olson, Benjamin Ost, Paul Pioli, Pedro Wong

■ **Supervisors in Training (SIT) Team (operator recruitment):** Melissa Adams, Abdul Alidina, Rudy Allen, Sherman Alston, Gil Anselmo, Doug Beatty, John Costello, Ken Dvorak, Jim Farris, Tim Flanagan, Gordon Guhl, Ken Johnston, Suzanne Keyport, Tim Mack, Kevin Maguire, Dan Mann, Robert Moore, Dareyl Plummer, Sandy Sander, Valerie Summer, Brian Vujovich, Cheryl Washington, Michael Yamamoto,

■ **Vehicle Maintenance Support Team:** Ralph McQuillian, Gary Prince

KUDOS IN TRANSIT



The winners in the Operator division of the 32nd annual Metroadeo were Harold Lemmon, first place (center); Chai Kunjara, second place (left); and Daniel McKinney, third place (right).

■ **2008 annual Metroadeo winners** — Some of Metro's best operators met at the Training and Safety Facility in Tukwila to test their driving skills in head-to-head competition at the 32nd annual Metroadeo on Saturday, June 21. **Harold Lemmon** of Atlantic Base was a first-time winner in the Operator division. **Chai Kunjara** of Ryerson Base placed second, and **Daniel McKinney** of Central Base took third place. **Tom Ponischil**, Central Base, placed first in the Maverick Operator division, and **Ryan Stringfellow**, North Base mechanic, won the Maverick Non-Operator division. **Eric Dumadag** recorded the best score among first-time competitors, and **Trevor Hoit** claimed the most improved rodeo score. Lemmon will represent Metro at the state rodeo in Kennewick on Sept. 7, and at the APTA International bus rodeo in Tukwila next May.

■ **Access ridership spikes** — After more than a year of being lower than expected, Access ridership spiked to an all-time high on May 15 with 4,434 rides delivered in a single day. The return of more seasonable weather and the sharp increase in gas prices appear to have spurred greater demand for Metro's paratransit service.

■ **Vanpool demand keeps on growing** — At the end of May 2008, vanpool driver applications were up 16 percent over the same period last year. May alone saw the formation of 23 new vanpools, and 31 were scheduled to start in June. On June 1, Metro had a total of 1,058 vans on the road, an 11-percent increase over last year. Rideshare Operations has added extra orientation classes to accommodate the new volunteer drivers, and Metro has put 94 "retired" vans back in active service.

■ **RideshareOnline sets record** — In early June, RideshareOnline.com had nearly 15,000 commuters registered in its carpool/vanpool database, far surpassing the previous record of 13,287, reached in 2005 when gas prices hit \$3 per gallon. The Web site's home page got twice as many hits in May 2008 as in May 2007, and new applications were up 27 percent over the previous year. At the current rate of growth, database registrations could reach 20,000 by September.

■ **Raves for Metro bus drivers** — The following "rave" item appeared in the Seattle Times' Rant and Rave column on June 21: "To all the King County Metro bus drivers: Thankfully, more people are realizing the benefits of public transportation these days, and your job certainly hasn't gotten any easier. Thank you so much for getting us to our jobs, homes, schools and shops. You keep our city running in so many ways, and most of you have a smile to give even though you have a long and arduous workday. Keep it up! Seattle loves you."

■ **A great place to work** — Metro was selected as a finalist in a "Great Transit Systems to Work For" competition sponsored by Metro Magazine and TransitTalent.com. Metro Magazine is a national publisher of transit industry information and is highly regarded by those who work in the public transportation field. Employees had an opportunity to weigh in by filling out an online survey that included questions about Metro's work environment and work culture.

Transit operators of the month

June 2008

Atlantic Base: **Roderick Apolonio**

Bellevue Base: **Spencer Jones**

Central Base: **Salvador Cortes**

East Base: **Theodore Thomas**

North Base: **Ineke Deboer**

Ryerson Base: **Berhane Amanuel**

South Base: **Patrick Carnahan**

July 2008

Atlantic Base: **Don Lindo**

Bellevue Base: **Eric Vickery**

Central Base: **Tyrone Ester**

East Base: **James Driesen**

North Base: **Peter Sang**

Ryerson Base: **Oswaldo Fernandez**

South Base: **Oscar Davis**

■ **Lowe named first-line supervisor of sign-up** — **Frank Lowe** is the most senior service communications coordinator, with 23 years of experience. He radiates excellence, frequently volunteering to assist and mentor newer coordinators and trainees. He was a mainstay of the 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. night shift for years, and was a master of the old radio system. Today he



Frank Lowe

remains a top-notch resource to his peers for his knowledge and experience. Recently he picked a day shift from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m., working Channel 1 in the Transit Control Center. Extensive experience in training and service quality complements his role as a coordinator. Everyone appreciates his good humor, dedication, smile, and willingness to help out fellow employees and internal and external customers.

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On the Move

Cindy Watanabe-Mezs to program/project manager I (Commute Trip Reduction Services) from fiscal specialist II (Paratransit/Rideshare Operations)

Vehicle Maintenance

Chris Parrott to chief of Vehicle Maintenance (South Base) from lead mechanic

Gary Tveit to lead mechanic from mechanic

New Hires

General Manager's Office

Neil Crosier, administrative assistant I — July 28

Information Technology

Robert Trantina, application developer-senior (term-limited) — June 9

Light Rail

Sean Bogart, SCADA systems specialist — May 30

Steven Bose, track and facilities chief — August 11

Raymond Davis, power chief — June 30

Sandra Dodge, operations chief — July 7

Max Lemke, operations chief — June 25

Amanda Nightingale, operations chief — July 1

Power and Facilities

Freddie Velasquez, building operating engineer (South Facilities) — July 15

David Martin, line worker helper (Power Distribution) — April 30

Sales and Customer Services

Carri Brezonick, supervisor of customer information — August 1

Service Development

Tyler Benson, graduate student intern — June 11

Weston Brinkley, graduate student intern — June 30

Lea Fortmann, graduate student intern — June 9

Stephen Hunt, transportation planner II — June 2

Parker Laramore, summer student intern — July 7

Jana Wright, transportation planner II — May 19

Transit HR

Travis Butcher, records management specialist — June 30

Vehicle Maintenance

Mark Bassen, electronic technician — June 9

Clifford Hill, equipment service worker — June 7

Timothy Johnson, mechanic — June 9

Bruce Reid, electronic technician — June 9

Daniel Stanton, mechanic — June 9

Gary Scofield, mechanic — June 9

Deborah Waters, equipment service worker — June 7

In Our Thoughts

Carl Armstead, signage specialist (Power and Facilities; 25-year employee), passed away on July 18

Dan Grayzyk, former manager of DSTT and base operations, passed away on June 30

Jim Richards, retired supervisor of facilities maintenance, passed away on May 24



ON THE MOVE

Transit Division retirements, promotions/job changes, new hires, and remembrances

Retirements

Operations

Operators:

John Hill, East Base — August 1; 16 years

David Howard, North Base — June 30; 23 years

Marty Neiffer, North Base — June 30; 35+ years

William Smith, North Base — June 25; 30 years (first part-time operator to retire with 30 years)

Paratransit/Rideshare Operations

Barbara Lopuszynski, information systems professional IV — June 30; 5+ years

Service Development

Robin Anderson, transit planner III (Route Facilities) — August 29; 31 years

Transit Safety

Buck Knight, safety and health administrator IV (safety officer) — July 30; 34 years

Vehicle Maintenance

Dan Flynn, sheet metal worker — July 1; 29+ years

Tony Volk, mechanic — August 30; 34+ years

Michael Voris, supervisor of vehicle procurement — August 29; 36+ years

Promotions and Job Changes

Information Technology (IT)

Steven Stark to IT systems specialist-senior (special duty acting assignment) from communications coordinator (Service Communications)

Gunnar Goerlitz to GIS specialist senior from GIS specialist journey (KC GIS Center)

Light Rail

Marwan Al-Mukhtar to operations chief from acting operations superintendent

Michael Avery to manager of light rail from acting manager of light rail/superintendent of rail operations

Gil Anselmo, rail supervisor from first-line supervisor (Base Operations)

Ian Bennett to operations chief from building operating engineer (Power and Facilities)

Reginold Chavis to rail supervisor from first-line supervisor (Service Communications)

Karambir Cheema to acting operations superintendent from operations chief

Chuck Dolan to rail supervisor from first-line supervisor (Transit Training)

James Dunn to operations chief from first-line supervisor (Base Operations)

Tedd Hankins to way power and signals superintendent from vehicle maintenance superintendent

Brad Kittredge to signal and communications chief from senior SCADA systems specialist

Peter Mason to rail signal and communication technician from VM electronics technician

Joseph Olszewski to rail supervisor from first-line supervisor (Service Quality)

Joshua Shields to rail supervisor from first-line supervisor (Transit Training)

Chris Skaar to acting vehicle maintenance superintendent from maintenance service center chief

William Wallace to rail signal and communication technician from VM electronics technician

Keith Willett to rail signal and communication technician from VM electronics technician

Metro Transit Police (MTP)

Deputy Curt Timby to MTP Patrol (second shift) from Precinct 3 patrol

Operations

John Bouie to supervisor-in-training from transit operator (Ryerson Base)

Kevin Friend to supervisor-in-training from transit operator (North Base)

Dale Harter to supervisor-in-training from transit operator (Central Base)

Vicki LaRitz to operations assistant manager from supervisor of service quality

Daniel Matthews to supervisor-in-training from transit operator (North Base)

Randall Thomas to supervisor-in-training from transit operator (East Base)

Power and Facilities

Jim Richardson to acting electrician constructor crew chief from electrician constructor (Power Distribution)

Sales and Customer Services

Phil Branham to supervisor of fare media sales from chief of pass sales

Chris Daniels to acting customer service coordinator-lead from senior (PM) rider information specialist

Angela Silling to acting senior (PM) rider information specialist from rider information specialist

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